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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2005) concerning Côte d'Ivoire

Letter dated 17 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report prepared by the Government of Burkina Faso, pursuant to paragraph 15 of Security Council resolution 1572 (2004) on Côte d'Ivoire (see annex).

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Annex to the letter dated 17 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

This report is being submitted pursuant to article 15 of Security Council resolution 1572 (2004).

It sets out the measures Burkina Faso has taken in order to implement the resolution.

1. Arms embargo (paragraph 7)

Since the outbreak of the Ivorian crisis, and in a demonstration of its willingness to contribute to a rapid settlement, the Government of Burkina Faso took measures to secure its border with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. The primary objective of those measures was to prevent the territory of Burkina Faso from serving as a rear base or haven for belligerents.

Pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004), this provision has been strengthened.

The Government of Burkina Faso has, in particular:

- increased police strengths along the border;
- taken exceptional measures, including a systematic search of vehicles leaving the country or arriving from Côte d'Ivoire;
- carried out regular border patrols;
- Following the meeting of the Burkina Faso/Côte d'Ivoire Joint Commission, held in Abidjan on 16 July 2004, as well as consultations between the specialized security services, in particular the meeting of security ministers held on 26 July in Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso set up networks of communication between their security forces.

The purpose of this mechanism is to ensure that the two countries have a means of exchanging reliable information round the clock. It consists of:

- a network for the coordination of security patrols along the common border;
- a network for the coordination of inter-State convoy escorts.

These networks continue to be operational in Burkina Faso.

- Moreover, Burkina Faso has a legislative and regulatory framework for combating trafficking in arms and monitoring their import and use.

Hence:

- Act No. 032-2003/AN on surveillance of the national territory and Joint Decision No. 2002-023/SECU/MAT/DEF by the Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and the Ministry of Defence are consulted in implementing the resolution.
- The High Authority on Monitoring Arms Imports and their Use, established by Decree No. 2001-005/PRES/PM/MAET of 24 January 2001, amended by Decree No. 2001-635/PRES/PM/MAET of 30 November, and accountable to

the Prime Minister and Head of Government, is responsible for ensuring the transparent monitoring of all arms imported into Burkina Faso.

It cooperates with numerous partners and submits a periodic report to the Government.

Since the outbreak of the Ivorian crisis, it has stepped up its activities.

- the National Commission to Combat the Proliferation of Light Weapons (CNLPAL), established by Decree No. 2001-167/PRES/PM/DEF of 25 April 2001 in the context of the Moratorium of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, is responsible for formulating and implementing national policy on controlling the proliferation of light weapons.

  Under the authority of the Prime Minister and Head of Government, it is composed of representatives of the Government and of civil society, including religious and customary authorities.

- It should also be stressed that, in the light of the many conflicts that have rocked the West African subregion in recent years, Burkina Faso is an active Participant in the Kimberley Process to strengthen the fight against diamond trafficking, which fuels illicit trafficking in arms.

2. Restrictions on the freedom of movement (paragraph 9)

Since the implementation of this provision is contingent on drawing up a list of names of persons concerned, as provided in paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1572 (2004), Burkina Faso can only provide assurances that it is prepared to take the appropriate measures when the list is issued.

3. The freezing of assets (paragraph 11)

In this connection, it should be noted that the guidelines already adopted by the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), which is comprised of eight States, including Côte d'Ivoire, and has a central bank (the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)), can be easily applied at the appropriate time, i.e., when the list of names is issued.

4. Follow-up mechanism

Immediately after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1572 (2004), the Government of Burkina Faso set up an inter-ministerial committee responsible for follow-up.

Chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation, it is composed of the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Security, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization and the Minister of Justice.

This committee meets on a regular basis to follow up and assess progress in the implementation of resolution 1572 (2004).

5. Obstacles to implementation

Like many other developing countries, particularly those of West Africa, Burkina Faso is grappling with border surveillance problems.

It therefore wishes to strengthen cooperation with neighbouring countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Togo) and, with a view to ensuring effective border surveillance, has initiated periodic meetings among the authorities responsible for territorial administration and security. Border surveillance is particularly crucial because the porous borders exacerbate trafficking in arms and organized crime in Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso thus finds it regrettable that the surveillance and communication mechanism set up by the Government of Burkina Faso and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire is not functioning in Côte d'Ivoire, as it would have hoped.

Accordingly, the United Nations, and the international community as a whole, must lend their support to these efforts, and to those made by the States of the subregion.

Burkina Faso welcomes the Committee established by the Security Council which, through its action, contributes to the stabilization of the West African subregion.

As one of the main victims of the Ivorian crisis, in both human and economic terms, Burkina Faso would benefit greatly from a peaceful and rapid settlement.